

Please Amend the Claims to Read as Follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A system for facilitating a transaction, the system comprising:
obtaining means operable to obtain information pertaining to an object that is for sale;
forwarding means operable to forward the information pertaining to the object to a first
computing device that is arranged to present the information to a prospective purchaser; and
establishing means operable to establish a communicating means associated with the first
computing device and a second computing device that is used by a person managing a sale of the
object, the communicating means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person
managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to
communicate with each other in relation to the sale of the object, the communicating means also
being arranged to create a record of communication between the prospective purchaser and the
person managing the sale.
2. (original) The system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the communicating means is
operable to assist the person managing the sale to conduct the sale in accordance with an auction
process or a tender process.
3. (original) The system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the tender process comprises a
closed tender process or an open tender process.
4. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 3]],
wherein the communicating means is operable to restrict an ability of the prospective purchaser to
communicate with the person managing the sale based on whether the prospective person is
registered to participate in the sale of the object.

5. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 4]], wherein the communicating means is operable to allow a party to use a third computing device to access and edit the information pertaining to the sale.

6. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 5]], wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain the information pertaining to the object from a computer system via a first communication network.

7. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 6]], wherein the obtaining means is operable to determine whether it is authorised to receive the information pertaining to the object.

8. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 7]], wherein the forwarding means is operable to use a second communication network in order to forward the information pertaining to the object to the first computing device.

9. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 8]], wherein the obtaining means is operable to obtain additional information associated with an agency engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of the object, whilst the forwarding means is operable to forward the additional information to the first computing device which is arranged to present the additional information to the prospective purchaser.

10. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 9]], wherein the information pertaining to the sale comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale; and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

11. (currently amended) The system as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 1[[to 10]], wherein the object comprises real estate.

12. (previously presented) A method for facilitating a transaction, the method comprising the steps of:

- obtaining information pertaining to an object that is for sale;
- forwarding the information pertaining to the object to a first computing device that is arranged to present the information to a prospective purchaser; and
- establishing a communicating means associated with the first computing device and a second computing device that is used by a person managing a sale of the object, the communicating means being such that it allows the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale to use the first computing device and the second computing device, respectively, to communicate with each other in relation to the sale of the object, the communicating means also being arranged to create a record of communication between the prospective purchaser and the person managing the sale.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the communicating means is operable to assist the person managing the sale to conduct the sale in accordance with an auction process or a tender process.

14. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein the tender process comprises a closed tender process or an open tender process.

15. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 14]], wherein the communicating means is operable to restrict an ability of the prospective purchaser to communicate with the person managing the sale based on whether the prospective person is registered to participate in the sale of the object.

16. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 15]], wherein the communicating means is operable to allow a party to use a third computing device to access and edit the information pertaining to the object.

17. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 16]], wherein the step of obtaining the information pertaining to the object comprises obtaining the information from a computer system via a communication network.

18. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 17]], wherein the step of obtaining the information pertaining to the object comprises determining whether the information pertaining to the object is authorised to be obtained.

19. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 18]], wherein the step of forwarding the information comprises using a communication network in order to forward the information pertaining to the sale to the first computing device.

20. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 19]], wherein the method further comprises the step of obtaining additional information associated with an agency engaged by an owner of the object to oversee the sale of the object, whilst the step of forwarding the information comprises forwarding the additional information to the first computing device which is arranged to present the additional information to the prospective purchaser.

21. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 20]], wherein the information pertaining to the sale comprises: an image of the object; details of the sale; and/or a contract for the sale of the object.

22. (currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claim[[s]] 13[[to 21]], wherein the object comprises real estate.

Preliminary Amendment

U.S. National Stage of PCT/AU2004/001831

Our ref: B-6036PCT 623561-1

June 23, 2006

Page 8

23. (currently amended) A computer program that comprises at least one instruction for causing a computing device to carry out the method as claimed in ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 12[[to 22]].

24. (previously presented) A computer readable medium comprising the computer program claimed in claim 23.

Claims 25 and 26 (cancelled).